

GULF OF MEXICO

B-WET BAY WATERSHED EDUCATION & TRAINING PROGRAM

The NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) program offers competitive grants to promote locally relevant environmental education opportunities to students in grades K through 12, as well as related professional development for educators. All B-WET funded projects emphasize sustained, hands-on, experimental activities that are aligned with academic learning standards.

B-WET Activities Show an Increase in:

- Teachers' confidence in their ability and their intentions to implement experiential learning in their classroom
- Students' enjoyment of learning about the ocean and protecting the ocean
- Students' and teachers ability to identify ways watersheds and the ocean become polluted and ways to prevent this pollution

Priority Areas: NOAA B-WET responds to regional educational and environmental priorities through local implementation. Gulf of Mexico B-WET applicants are asked to employ meaningful watershed educational experiences that address the coastal resource priorities outlined by the Gulf of Mexico Alliance. The Gulf of Mexico Alliance is a partnership of the states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, with the goal of significantly increasing regional collaboration to enhance the ecological and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico. Priority areas include:

- Water quality for healthy beaches and shellfish beds
- Wetland and coastal conservation and restoration
- Environmental education
- Identification and characterization of Gulf habitats
- Reducing nutrient inputs to coastal ecosystems
- Coastal community resiliency

Eligible Applicants: K-through-12 public and independent schools and school systems, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, state or local government agencies, and Indian tribal governments.

Available funding: In 2008 the NOAA Office of Education awarded over 1.3 million dollars of funding to the Gulf region. In future years the program will be regionally administered through the NOAA Fisheries Service southeast regional office in St. Petersburg, Florida. Future funding opportunities will offer \$25,000-\$100,000 awards for projects one to three years in duration.

To learn more about the Gulf of Mexico B-WET Program contact Jeff Brown at Jeff.Brown@noaa.gov (727-824-5324), or visit our website at: <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/grants/B-Wet.htm>

